

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04134 081757Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13  
ACDA-07 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W  
-----081949Z 074902 /42

R 081744Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, WB, GW  
SUBL: CIVAIR - FUTURE OF AEROAMERICA

REF: A. 76 BONN 20158; B. 76 BONN 19193

1. HEINZ MATHUS, AEROAMERICA VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
EUROPEAN SALES CALLED ON CAA MARCH 4 TO DISCUSS  
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF AEROAMERICA. HE WAS  
QUESTIONED AT LENGTH ABOUT INDICATIONS THAT RUDI  
HAHN, AEROAMERICA VICE PRESIDENT FOR GERMANY HAD  
GIVEN TO GEORGE WERTENBAKER US ADMINISTRATOR FOR  
AERONAUTICS IN BERLIN  
(BEING REPORTED BY US BERLIN) THAT BECAUSE OF  
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THE AIRLINE WOULD BE  
UNABLE TO MEET ITS CONTRACT TO FLY SUMMER PROGRAM  
OF CHARTERS FOR BERLINER FLUG RING AGENCY.

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2. MATHUS CLAIMED THAT AEROAMERICA WAS IN  
REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE FINANCIALLY AND WELL  
ABLE TO MEET ITS COMMITMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE  
AIRLINES FINANCES HAD IMPROVED GREATLY SINCE  
LAST FALL, AND WHILE HE WAS STILL "CONCERNED"  
ABOUT FINANCES HE WAS NOT "WORRIED." HE AD-

MITTED THAT SOME OF AEROAMERICA'S EARNINGS FROM BERLIN HAD GONE TO SUPPORT ITS AIR EGYPT OPERATION, BUT CLAIMED HE HAD INSISTED ON AND MADE AEROAMERICA SEATTLE ACCEPT THAT HE WOULD NOT REMIT FUNDS BEYOND WHAT LEFT HIM WITH A NECESSARY RESERVE TO SUPPORT BERLIN OPERATIONS. AT PRESENT, MATHUS SAID, HE HAD THREE 720S READY TO GO AND WOULD RECEIVE A FOURTH IN MID-MAY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT CAPACITY FOR ALL EXPECTED OPERATION PLUS ONE BACK-UP AIRCRAFT.

3. HE SAID THAT RUDI HAHN WAS ON LEAVE AND APPARENTLY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT HAHN WAS GOING TO SEATTLE TO DISCUSS AEROAMERICA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH THE HEAD OFFICE AS HAHN HAD REPORTED TO WERTENBAKER.

4. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO JUDGE HOW FRANK MATHUS WAS BEING. WE HAVE FOUND IN THE PAST THAT WHILE HE DID NOT LIE ABOUT THE FIRM'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, HE ALSO DID NOT VOLUNTEER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS HE MIGHT HAVE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT AEROAMERICA CAN GET ALONG ON ITS BERLIN OPERATIONS SO LONG AS THE HEADQUARTERS DOES NOT DRAW TOO HEAVILY FROM BERLIN TO MEET COMMITMENTS IN OTHER PLACES. THE FACT THAT BERLINER FLUG RING A REPUTEDLY SHARP AND TOUGH FIRM WAS AWARE OF AEROAMERICA'S DIFFICULTIES LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEAR BUT STILL APPARENTLY WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH AEROAMERICA FOR ANOTHER SEASON WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE A REASONABLE DEGREE OF SOUNDNESS. WE WERE TOLD BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE THAT AEROAMERICA'S CONTRACT WAS NOT AIRTIGHT AND PROBABLY COULD HAVE BEEN BROKEN. WE PLAN TO TALK WITH RUDI HAHN ON HIS RETURN FROM SEATTLE. IN THE MEANTIME UNLESS THERE IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF A CRISIS, WE PLAN TO TAKE NO ACTION. CASH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 BONN 2, 76 BONN 19193  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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